



The “People’s Department”

USDA Department-wide Strategic Plan

Presented by

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USDA Strategic Planning

USDA's Previous Strategic Planning Process

- Departmental Overview (holding company concept), with 3 general goals, 10 sub-goals, & 4 management initiatives
- Supported by 30 component agency plans (bottom-up approach)
- Crosswalk from component plans to Departmental goals

New USDA Strategic Planning Process

- Strategic Plan for Department, "One USDA"
- Coordinated approach to planning
- Sub-agency plans continued for more detail and agency management

Purpose of Department-wide Plan

- Tell USDA's Story
- Address Public Perceptions
- Focus on USDA Priorities
- Address Concerns of Congress & Stakeholders
- Address Management Challenges
- Establish Accountability
- Devise Strategies for Mitigating External Factors
- Dynamically Manage, Simplify and Shorten Plans/Reports
- Coordinate Cross-Cutting Activities (internal/external)
- Monitor Results and Take Appropriate Actions

USDA Major Management Challenges and Program Risks

- Field Structure & Information Technology
- Federal Crop Insurance
- Conservation Reserve Program
- Farm Loan Programs
- Food Safety
- Food Stamp Program
- Forest Service
- Rural Rental Housing
- Civil Rights Complaints
- Environmental Compliance
- Financial Management
- Telecommunications Investments
- Computer Security

Status of Draft Plan

- Using Dept. of Transportation Model, GAO Comments on USDA's 97 Strategic Plan, OMB A-11 Guidance
- Developed Detailed Action Plan
- Currently in the Initial Draft Stage

Revised Strategic Plan

Time Line for Review/Release

June 7

- Initial draft review at USDA CFO Advisory Council Retreat at the George Washington Carver Center in Beltsville

June 15-July 14

- Department-wide review of initial draft
- Consultations with Congressional staff, OMB and GAO
- Incorporate comments from these internal/external groups

July 25-August 3

- Final Internal Review: Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Subcabinet Officials, Agency Heads

August 15

- All Federal Agencies must submit final drafts to OMB

Early September

- OMB returns document
- Secretary gives final concurrence

September 28

- Federal Agencies must transmit plans to Congress, distribute to appropriate recipients and post it on the Internet

Major Components of Plan

- Mission Statement
- Strategic Goals & Objectives
- Key Outcome Measures & Long-term Strategies
- Resources (Human, Capital, Information, & Other)
- Key External Factors
- Data Quality

USDA Revised Strategic Plan

Goal 1

- Enhance the economic safety net for U.S. agricultural producers

Goal 2

- Promote the Nation's nutrition and health by providing access to a safe, affordable, and nutritious food supply

Goal 3

- Maintain and enhance the Nation's natural resources and environment

Goal 4

- Develop a rural economy where all rural residents and communities have the resources needed to prosper, the physical and information infrastructure needed to be successful, and entrepreneurship flourishes

Goal 5

- Serve the public more effectively and efficiently

Current Draft Contents

- Section III – TOC
- Section IV – Summary of Plan Components
- Section V – Overview of USDA
- Section VI – Challenges/Opportunities
- Section VII – Strategic Goals
- Section VIII – Appendices

Comments Needed On:

- Strengths/Weaknesses
- Omissions/Errors
- Clarity of Document as a Communication Tool to a Diverse Audience
- Management Challenges (identified by GAO & OIG)